GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1683
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005
DEPLETION OF OZONE LAYER
Kuppusami Shri C.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the declining Ozone layer as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 2, 2005;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any comprehensive study is being made to find out the causes and to suggest remedial measures;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to prevent depletion of ozone over India especially Northern India?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the studies conducted by the India Meteorological Department establish that there are no significant long-term trends in ozone concentration over the Indian region. Marginal variations in ozone concentration noticed by some scientists could be within the natural fluctuations of the ozone layer.

(c), (d) and (e) The India Meteorological Department conducts scientific study of the ozone layer covering parameters of surface ozone, total ozone and vertical distribution of ozone concentration over the country since 1957. Along with natural processes in the atmosphere, release of man-made ozone depleting substances affect the ozone layer. In order to tackle the issue of ozone depletion, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer are the international agreements. These agreements contain the measures for phasing out ozone depleting substances in developed as well as developing countries. India is a party to both the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol and had taken necessary steps to phase out production and consumption of ozone depleting substances in various sectors in accordance with the provisions of these agreements. The country programme has been prepared for phasing out various ozone depleting substances and is under implementation in India.